


WQ Advisory Council Meeting

Chapter 641. Individual and Small Public On-site Sewage
Treatment Systems



July 21, 2020




Emergency Authority

- ▶ House Bill 3461
 - ▶ Direction to reduce minimum length requirements for lateral lines to the full extent allowed while maintaining protection of human health and the environment.
 - ▶ Near unanimous approval in the House. The bill did not see a vote by the Senate due to the Health Emergency.




Economic Impact Potential

- ▶ Changes will result in a significant cost reduction related to the installation of various on-site sewage treatment systems.
 - ▶ Change to the Zone 1 Waterbody Protection Area
 - ▶ Reduction and combination of aerobic system spray application sizing
 - ▶ Reduction in the sizing of conventional subsurface absorption systems for some areas of the State.



Revision- Waterbody Protection Area Zone 1

- ▶ Initial Rule language implemented in 2012 to provide for the reduction of nutrient levels based on a separation distance from the on-site sewage treatment system and the listed waterbody.
- ▶ Zone 1 distance required the reduction of nitrogen for all new and modified on-site systems located within 660 feet of the listed waterbody.
- ▶ Proposed changes to rule will reduce the Zone 1 distance from 660 feet to 300 feet.
 - ▶ A separation distance of 300 feet places this waterbody protection distance in-line with the PWS distances for drinking water, while reducing the Zone by over half.
- ▶ No change is proposed for Zone 2




Revision- Optional Reduction in Conventional Subsurface Absorption Sizing

- Proposing language establishing an optional length reduction for Counties located in Central and Western Oklahoma.
- The optional reduction is based on research completed by Dr. Sergio Abit, Oklahoma State University.
- The proposed revisions establishes optional reductions of 15% and 30% for conventional subsurface absorption lines when those systems are designed using a soil profile.
- The findings of the study did not recommend a reduction in sizing of lateral lines for Eastern Oklahoma.



Revision- Aerobic System Application Reductions

- A rule revision in 2007 amended the aerobic spray areas in Eastern Oklahoma and based them on the 90th percentile rainfall.
- This increase resulted in some of the application areas tripling in size.
- We are proposing to roll back the application areas to the sizes in place before the 2007 rule change.
- We are also combining application sizing criteria for several of the Net Evaporation Zones. This change will simplify the design process required at the onset of each installation.



Revision- Small Public Aerobic Dispersal Sizing

- It was identified that spray or drip dispersal sizing was not included in the previous revision.
- Changes to existing figures in Appendix H will be made to provide sizing guidance.
 - Spray sizing will be based on the residential application areas.
 - Drip irrigation sizing is based on soil loading rates for the specific soil texture.



Stake Holder Outreach

- ▶ A survey has been sent to our stakeholders for input regarding these changes.
- ▶ If meeting restrictions are lifted, outreach meetings will be held for discussion.
- ▶ Comments will be requested once a “draft” is ready for review.



In Conclusion

- ▶ Seek Council Approval at the September 2020 meeting.
- ▶ Emergency Rules to the November Environmental Quality Board Meeting for approval.
- ▶ Rules will then go through the permanent process for the 2021 Legislative Session



Point of Contact

- ▶ Please direct all questions to Nicholas Huber, ECLS On-site Program Manager
- ▶ Email: Nicholas.Huber@deq.ok.gov
- ▶ Office phone: 405-702-6188
- ▶ Cell phone: 405-564-3750